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## **Auburn man stabbed at Downtown lot** Bar fight leaves knifing victim in critical condition

By: Penne Usher and Jenifer Gee Journal Staff Writers

An Auburn bar fight turned violent early Monday morning sending one man to the hospital with stab wounds and another to jail. Michael Ryan Lane, 32, of Auburn, was booked into the Placer County Jail charged with suspicion of attempted murder, for allegedly knifing 21-year-old Britton Reed, also of Auburn. According to Lt. Scott Burns of the Auburn Police Department, the incident started just before 2 a.m. as Bob and Betty's 160 Club on Cleveland Avenue was closing. Lane reportedly got into a verbal argument with Reed, which escalated. They stepped outside with two other men and ended up in the parking lot next to Encore Music, Burns said. Apparently, that turned into a physical altercation and they ended up on the ground fighting. Reed was stabbed

multiple times with a folding knife, Burns said. According to Liz Madison, spokeswoman for Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Reed was listed in critical condition Monday afternoon. Officers responded and detained numerous individuals before reportedly determining Lane was the alleged stabber. He remains in custody in the Placer County Jail and is expected to be arraigned on a single charge of attempted murder Wednesday. Patrons at the 160 Club that night said nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Bartender Leasa Suppan, 42, of Auburn, said she is familiar with just about every patron who comes into the bar. She said she didn't recognize Lane and his friends. She said Reed and his friends were quietly playing pool and hadn't had much to drink the entire night. Lane and his group were sitting in a separate area, drinking more but not talking to Reed or his friends, Suppan said. It wasn't until about 30 to 45 minutes after she closed the bar that she said she heard a bang on the door. It was one of Reed's friends telling them about the fight and that Reed had been stabbed. Immediately, a security guard for the bar, Cody Newman, grabbed a phone and ran outside. The 30-year-old Auburn resident said he found Britton curled up in the fetal position barely moving on the parking lot ground. Lane and a friend of Britton's were fighting off to the side. Newman said he immediately went to Britton's side. He said he began applying pressure with his hands to the sides of Britton's body where he saw three stab wounds. While Newman was administering CPR, he had his phone cradled in between his shoulder and his ear so he could continue talking to the dispatch officer, he said. The dude's head was on my knee and I was trying to keep him awake. He was barely even conscious, Newman said of Reed. Newman said when Auburn Police officers arrived, they immediately drew their guns and handcuffed everyone at the scene, including him. After about 15 minutes, they released Newman from handcuffs and then took Lane away, Newman said. Elle Smith, a 24-year-old Auburn resident, one of the patrons there that night, said she and her friends, Tiffany Alexander and Tarin Tiberino, left just before the fight and stabbing took place. Tiberino said they saw Reed, Lane and their respective friends standing outside of the bar's front entrance. The guys were out here having words with each other but it didn't seem like much, said Tiberino, a 23-year-old Auburn resident. All three said they were surprised to hear that Reed was later stabbed. Smith said a fight like this is highly unusual at a bar where everyone knows everyone. We've had little scuffles, but nothing like that, Smith said. They described Reed as very respectful while Lane, who was an unfamiliar face, they said, was rude. He was really respectful to all of us ladies, said Alexander, 28, of Auburn, speaking about Reed. Suppan said this kind of incident is very rare at the bar. I tell people this is our living room and don't mess with it, Suppan said. That sort of thing doesn't happen here and it was really unfortunate that it did. A little more than a month ago an early morning stabbing outside the California Club in Old Town Auburn sent one of three victims to an area hospital with serious injuries. In that incident Keshan D. Branch, 35, was arrested and charged with three felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon. Fire crews and police responded to a report of a fight at

the bar and found three victims, two were reportedly patrons of the bar and the other was a doorman. This doesn't happen very often, Burns said. It's unusual to have two stabbings in such a short time. Branch remains in custody in the Placer County Jail on \$50,000 bail. Lane is being held without bail. The Journal's Penne Usher can be reached at penneu@goldcountrymedia.com. Jenifer Gee can be reached at jeniferg@goldcountrymedia.com or post a comment on auburnjournal.com.

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